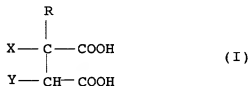


We claim

1. A method for producing moldings from finely divided materials
5 and for sheetlike structures of fiber materials, wherein the
finely divided material is mixed or impregnated with a
heat-curable composition and the resultant mixture is shaped
at temperatures above 120°C or an unconsolidated sheetlike
10 structure of fiber materials is first treated with a
heat-curable composition and then heated at temperatures
above 120°C, wherein the heat-curable composition comprises:

- at least one reaction product of

- 15 i. at least one polycarboxylic acid of the formula I:



in which

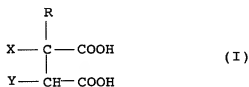
- 25 R is hydrogen or a CH₂COOH group,
X is OH or NH₂ if Y is hydrogen,
Y is OH or NH₂ if X is hydrogen, or
X and Y together are a π bond,

and/or an anhydride of the polycarboxylic acid I

- 30 ii. with ammonia and, if desired
- iii. with primary amines and/or compounds containing at
least two hydroxyl groups; and/or
- 35 - a mixture of at least one polycarboxylic acid of the
formula I and/or its anhydride and at least one substance
which releases ammonia on heating and, if desired,
primary amines and/or compounds containing at least two
40 hydroxyl groups.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction
product of the components i and ii is selected from the
monoamides and diamides, the monoammonium and diammonium
45 salts, and the monoamide ammonium salts of maleic acid and of
fumaric acid.

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3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction product is a water-soluble oligomer obtained by heating a monoamide or diamide, a monoammonium or diammonium salt or a monoamide ammonium salt of a polycarboxylic acid of the formula I.
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4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heat-curable composition further comprises a finely divided polymer of ethylenically unsaturated monomers.
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5. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heat-curable composition further comprises at least one compound containing at least two hydroxyl groups.
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6. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the binder is used in an amount of from 2% by weight to 100% by weight, based on 100% by weight of finely divided material.
7. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heat-curable composition is used as a powder.
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8. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the finely divided material is used in the form of fibers, chips, slivers or particulate materials.
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9. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition is used in the form of an aqueous solution or dispersion.
10. A molding obtainable by a process as claimed in claim 1.
- 30
11. A sheetlike structure obtainable by a method as claimed in claim 1.
12. A heat-curable composition comprising
- 35
- at least one reaction product of
- i. at least one polycarboxylic acid of the formula I:



in which

R is hydrogen or a CH_2COOH group,

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- * X is OH or NH₂ if Y is hydrogen,
- Y is OH or NH₂ if X is hydrogen, or
- * X and Y together are a π bond,

5 and/or an anhydride of the polycarboxylic acid I with

ii. ammonia and, if desired

10 iii. primary amines and/or compounds containing at least two hydroxyl groups; and/or

- a mixture of at least one polycarboxylic acid of the formula I and/or its anhydride and at least one substance which releases ammonia on heating and, if desired, primary amines and/or compounds containing at least two hydroxyl groups

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- at least one further constituent selected from finely divided polymers of ethylenically unsaturated monomers, compounds containing at least two hydroxyl groups, and polymeric polycarboxylic acids.

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